Date: 1-13-02

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX – MARKED UP VERSION

5. (Amended) A coupling according to [any one of the preceding claims] <u>claim 1</u>, wherein said retainer includes at least one resilient catch member adapted to engage a projection on said pipe.